



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/609,714	06/30/2000	Stefan Hack	7781.0013-0	2503

22852 7590 05/17/2005

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER
LLP
901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413

EXAMINER

HECK, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/609,714

Applicant(s)

HACK ET AL.

Examiner

Michael C. Heck

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Final Office Action is responsive to applicant's amendment filed 28 February 2005. Applicant amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 18, 26, 27, 38, 40, 41, 52, 58, and 61-65. Currently, claims 1-65 are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. The objection to the Specification in the Office Action of 7 December 2004 is moot since the last Office Action Summary (PTOL-326) indicated an objection, however no objection was submitted in the written Office Action.

3. The objection to the Claims in the Office Action of 7 December 2004 is withdrawn in response to the applicant's amendment to the claims 63-65.

4. The 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection in the Office Action of 7 December 2004 for claims 58 and 62 is withdrawn in response to the applicant's amendment to the claims.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-65 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Examiner notes that the applicant amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 18, 26, 27, 38, 40, 41, 52, 58, and 61-65 (independent claims 1, 6, 26, 40, 58 and 62). As a result of the amendment, the new art of record reads on the applicant's invention even though claims fail to provide active, positive steps delimiting how collaboration is actually practiced. Applicant asserts all the claim

limitations are not taught or suggested by the previously applied references and that the Examiner used improper hindsight based on the applicant's disclosure. In addition, the Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of the claims as being a picture or graph with drill down features for more detailed information since the claims are directed to a method, system or computer-readable medium. As to claim 24, the applicant asserts the Examiner incorrectly interpreted "cycle time" as a quantitative benefit and "conditions of satisfaction" as a qualitative benefit. In the Applicant's argument, the Applicant specifically identified in the specification a quantitative business benefit include benefits such as reduced delivery times by up to 75%.

In response, the Examiner reiterates the position that the claimed invention as written is a picture or graph with drill down features displayed on a computer. The features of the "picture or graph" are further identified as to the information displayed and that the use is for assisting collaboration between participants, however the process steps for collaboration are not claimed. The technology of using a computer to display a picture or graph with drill down features is old and well known in the art (i.e., icons, URL links), however the Applicant insists the features are patentably distinct (i.e., interlocking polygons). As indicated in the previous Office Actions, the polygon shape of the graph features is non-functional descriptive material and not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. A polygon by definition is any plane shape with straight sides, such as a triangle, square, pentagon, hexagon, etc. A polygon, whatever shape it is, does not determine what the interactions are and who the participants are. It is merely a shape used for display purposes. In fact, as written, the

Art Unit: 3623

interactions would not change if circles were used. Therefore, the shape was considered non-functional descriptive material. However, White (White, VIT SeeChain Portal: An Information Portal for the Enterprise, DataBase Associates International, Inc. Version 2, August 1999 [GOOGLE and WAYBACK MACHINE]) does show a Web-based display with polygons linked to each other in a hyperbolic tree structure so users who wish to navigate quickly and drill down through a large number of information objects can do so with the least amount of effort (White: Para 15 and 22). White and PR Newswire (PR Newswire, VIT Announces SeeChain™ Product Line – Five Supply Chain Performance Applications, PR Newswire, New York, 14 June 1999 [PROQUEST]) teach VIT SeeChain Portal, which is an enterprise information portal (EIP) that helps organize and find corporate information in the set of systems that constitute the business information supply chain. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of business information between trading partners. The users employ the knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal. The hyperbolic tree paradigm used by this interface is faster to navigate and is capable of displaying considerably more information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection, and the user can right-click on a collaboration name to view the business information or to place an information delivery subscription order (White: Para 2, 22 and 32). Through the intuitive Web-based interface, VIT's SeeChain applications place actionable supply-chain measurement information at the fingertips of the business managers, executives,

Art Unit: 3623

suppliers, and customers – across organizations, product lines and distribution centers. The Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain (PR Newswire: Para 1 and 5). In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). In this Office Action, both White and PR Newswire are addressing the same product. White, PR Newswire, and Flores et al. (U.S. Patent 5,630,069) collectively address business process maps (i.e., workflow maps).

As to claim 24, a quantitative business benefit such as reduced delivery times by up to 75% is a measure of cycle time improvement. Cycle time is a measure of time, which is quantitative. Per Webster Dictionary, benefit is something that promotes well-being. Being able to measure cycle time is a benefit since cycle time improvement comes from knowing where one started. Being able to measure cycle time promotes improvement, therefore cycle time is a benefit.

Please see the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. **Claims 1, 6, 26, 40, 58 and 62** provides for the use of assisting collaboration between the participants in the business community, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claims 1, 6, 26, 40, 58 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. **Claims 1-13, 17-21, 26-33, 37-47 and 51-55** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White (White, VIT SeeChain Portal: An Information Portal

for the Enterprise, DataBase Associates International, Inc. Version 2, August 1999 [GOOGLE and WAYBACK MACHINE]) in view of PR Newswire (PR Newswire, VIT Announces SeeChain™ Product Line – Five Supply Chain Performance Applications, PR Newswire, New York, 14 June 1999 [PROQUEST]). White discloses a value chain optimization system and method comprising:

- **[Claim 1]** providing on a display device coupled to a data processing system a business view depicting a plurality of interlocked polygons illustrating interactions between the participants, the polygons being positioned relative to each other to define the participants for the interactions (Para 5, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.); and
- deriving an interaction view from the business view using said data processing system, the interaction view depicting additional information between the participants (Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners.);
- **[Claim 6]** rendering, using a data processing system, a first graphical depiction of a sequence of interactions between different ones of the participants, the depiction including polygons being juxtaposed to indicate the sequence and participants of each of the interactions (Para 5, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative

Art Unit: 3623

processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.); and

- rendering, using the data processing system, a second graphical depiction, derived from the first graphical depiction, of an information flow (Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners.);

As to claim 1, White fails to teach wherein the business view and the interaction view assist collaboration between the participants in the business community; and as to claim 6, wherein the first graphical depiction and the second graphical depiction display collaboration between the participants in the business community. White does teach collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products (Para 2 and 5), however does not explicitly say between participants in the business community. PR Newswire explicitly teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain (Para 1).

Art Unit: 3623

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to incorporate the collaboration between participants in the business community of PR Newswire with the teachings of White since White teaches the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners (Para 32). Both White and PR Newswire teach VIT SeeChain™ where White teaches the concept of the Enterprise Information Portal and what requirements an EIP should have (Para 8), and PR Newswire teaches an application of the product in the supply chain process so business managers can view the performance of the entire supply chain from supplier to customer (Para 3). Therefore, the motivation to combine is the two references are addressing the same product; the reasonable expectation of success is the demonstrated application and marketing of the product for supply chain monitoring; and all features of the claimed invention are taught or suggested.

- **[Claim 2]** providing, in the business view, an indication of the benefits from the interactions (White: Para 2, White teaches an EIP helps users organize and find corporate information.).
- **[Claim 3]** providing a component view depicting a system topology used by each participant (White: Para 9, White teaches the ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The Examiner interprets White to suggest information flow is understood down to the system level.).
- **[Claim 4]** providing a component view includes depicting the availability of IT components (Para 5, 9, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate

systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner interprets White to suggest the monitoring of business processes includes the monitoring of the availability of components to execute the business process.).

- **[Claim 5]** providing a component view includes depicting the activities of software components (White: Para 25, White teaches SeeChain Portal provides a relational DBMS-based BID for storing metadata about collections (relational tables, reports, Web pages, etc.) that can be accessed via its Web-based Portal Agent information assistant. Meta data about transactional data sources, and source to target data mappings can be added to the BID.).
- **[Claim 7]** rendering a third graphical depiction depicting a system topology used by each participant (White: Para 9, White teaches the ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The Examiner interprets White to suggest information flow is understood down to the system level.).
- **[Claim 8]** rendering the first graphical depiction includes representing a plurality of interactions depicted as interlocking polygons (Para 22, and 24, White teaches the knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.).
- **[Claim 9]** rendering the first graphical depiction includes vertically aligning representations of interactions involving one of the participants (Para 22, and 24, White teaches the knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.).

- **[Claim 10]** rendering the graphical depictions include vertically aligning representations of the business benefits, wherein the business benefits correspond to at least one participant (Para 19, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches business users find the business information (i.e., collections) they are interested in. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of business information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.).
- **[Claim 11]** rendering the graphical depictions includes vertically aligning representations of quantifiable business benefits, wherein the quantifiable business benefits provide a basis for ROI calculations (PR Newswire: Para 5 and 8, PR Newswire teaches that through an intuitive Web-Based interface, VIT's SeeChain applications place actionable supply-chain measurement information at the fingertips of business managers, executives, suppliers and customers – across organizations, product lines and distribution centers. SeeChain Demand Accuracy allows business managers to measure the accuracy of the sales forecast compared to the actual sales. The Examiner interprets financial information is measured.).
- **[Claim 12]** producing a link from the first graphical depiction to the second graphical depiction (Para 31, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen.).
- **[Claim 13]** rendering the second graphical depiction includes providing additional information regarding interdependency of the participants (White: Para 25, White teaches SeeChain Portal provides a relational DBMS-based BID for storing metadata about collections (relational tables, reports, Web pages, etc.) that can be accessed via its Web-based Portal Agent information assistant. Meta data about transactional data sources, and source to target data mappings can be added to the BID.).
- **[Claim 17]** rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting features in the collaboration (White: Para 2, 5 and 31, White teaches collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word

processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products. The Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain.).

- **[Claim 18]** rendering the third graphical depiction includes depicting the availability of IT components (White: Para 5, 9, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner interprets White to suggest the monitoring of business processes includes the monitoring of the availability of components to execute the business process.).
- **[Claim 19]** rendering the third graphical depiction includes depicting distributed and centralized systems (White: Para 9, White teaches the ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The Examiner interprets White to suggest information flow is understood down to the system level.).
- **[Claim 20]** the third graphical depiction is derived from the second graphical depiction and contains additional information regarding the collaboration between participants (White: Para 5, White teaches executives can drill down through multiple levels of information when doing detailed analysis tasks like supply chain optimization. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain.).

- **[Claim 21]** displaying a first view, using a data processing system, the view including a plurality of interlocking polygons depicting activities of participants in transactions, wherein the polygons corresponding to each participant are vertically aligned and business benefits of the collaborative business scenario are shown in a vertical arrangement (White: Para 5, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship.) and
- business benefits of the collaborative business scenario are shown in a vertical arrangement (White: Para 5, White teaches executives can drill down through multiple levels of information when doing detailed analysis tasks like supply chain optimization. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain.).

Claims 26-33, 37-47 and 51-55 substantially recite the same limitations as that of claims 6-13 and 17-21 with the distinction of the recited method being a system and computer readable medium. Hence the same rejection for claims 6-13 and 17-21 as applied above applies to claims 26-33, 37-47 and 51-55.

10. **Claims 14-16, 22-25, 34-36, 48-50 and 56-65** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White (White, VIT SeeChain Portal: An Information Portal for the Enterprise, DataBase Associates International, Inc. Version 2, August 1999 [GOOGLE and WAYBACK MACHINE]) and PR Newswire (PR Newswire, VIT Announces SeeChain™ Product Line – Five Supply Chain Performance Applications,

PR Newswire, New York, 14 June 1999 [PROQUEST]) in view of over Flores et al. (U.S. Patent 5,630,069). As to **claim 14**, White and PR Newswire disclose a value chain optimization system and method but fail to teach where rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting a sequence of activities. Flores et al. teach workflow maps that highlight what work is performed in serial and what work is performed in parallel (Flores et al.: col. 2, lines 9-31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to incorporate the workflow maps of Flores et al. with the teachings of White and PR Newswire since PR Newswire teaches collaboration across the total supply chain (Para 1). Being able to measure gives managers the ability to act to improve the overall operational performance. The VIT SeeChain™ family of supply chain performance measurement applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain, so they can proactively measure, monitor and exceed supply chain performance objectives. They complement existing investments in supply chain planning and enterprise applications by leveraging these operations systems to measure, see and act on key performance indicators across the entire supply chain (PR Newswire: Para 1). An important part of a workflow analyst's work is the development of business process maps, with which the analyst and his/her client can readily see and interpret the structure of a business process, and identify quickly areas for clarification or improvement. Workflow maps highlight business process features such as the condition of satisfaction of both internal and external customers (Flores et al.: col. 1, lines 59-63, and col. 2, lines 9-12). White, PR Newswire, and

Art Unit: 3623

Flores et al. teach a business processes (i.e. supply chain), measurement (i.e. condition for satisfaction) and action for improvement, therefore, giving managers the ability to act to improve overall operational performance.

- **[Claim 15]** rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting information sharing between participants (White: Para 2, 5 and 31, White teaches collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products. The Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain. Flores et al.: col. 5, lines 55-62, and col. 6, lines 62-64, Flores et al. teach a business process is a network of workflows linked together that represent the recurrent process by which an organization performs and completes work, delivers products and services and satisfies customers. Specifically, a workflow is a structured set of acts between customers and performers organized to satisfy the customer's conditions of satisfaction.).
- **[Claim 16]** rendering the second graphical depiction includes depicting roles in the collaboration (Flores et al.: col.2, lines 9-14, Flores et al. teach workflow maps highlight business process features such as the roles of process participants.).
- **[Claim 22]** displaying a second view including participants of the collaborative business scenario (White: Para 2, 5 and 31, White teaches collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products. The Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business

Art Unit: 3623

- managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain. Flores et al.: col. 5, lines 55-62, and col. 6, lines 62-64, Flores et al. teach a business process is a network of workflows linked together that represent the recurrent process by which an organization performs and completes work, delivers products and services and satisfies customers. Specifically, a workflow is a structured set of acts between customers and performers organized to satisfy the customer's conditions of satisfaction.);
- activities of the participants illustrated as interlocking polygons (White: Para 5, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship. Flores et al.: col. 6, lines 21-24, col. 7, lines 19-22, and col. 8, lines 56-67, and Figure 5, Flores et al. teach business process maps that display the relationships among workflows, and displays the relevant information about each workflow. Workflows are business processes or a sequence of transactions. Links are represented graphically as lines with arrowheads that connect two workflows. Conditional links are indicated with a diamond icon. Links define dependency between two workflows and the mechanism by which dependencies between workflows is established.);
 - information flow between the participants illustrated as lines linking the interlocking polygons (Flores et al. col. 6, lines 21-24, col. 7, lines 19-22, and col. 8, lines 56-67, and Figure 5, Flores et al. teach business process maps that display the relationships among workflows, and displays the relevant information about each workflow. Workflows are business processes or a sequence of transactions. Links are represented graphically as lines with arrowheads that connect two workflows. Links define dependency between two workflows and the mechanism by which dependencies between workflows is established.); and
 - connectors illustrating a direction of document exchange. (Flores et al. col. 1 lines 19-25 and line 64 through to col. 2, line 8, col. 6, lines 21-24, col. 7, lines 19-22, and col. 8, lines 56-67, and Figure 5, Flores et al. teaches business process maps that display the relationships among workflows, and displays the relevant information about each workflow. Workflows are business

processes or a sequence of transactions. Links are represented graphically as lines with arrowheads that connect two workflows. Links define dependency between two workflows and the mechanism by which dependencies between workflows is established.).

- **[Claim 23]** a system topology at a business site of one of the participants (White: Para 9, White teaches the ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The Examiner interprets White to suggest information flow is understood down to the system level.);
- **[Claim 24]** accepting, into a data processing system, information identifying a collaborative business, participants in the collaborative business, and activities of the participants (White: Para 2, 5 and 31, White teaches collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products. The Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain. Flores et al.: col. 2, lines 9-31, and col. 4, lines 22-52, Flores et al. teach the workflow server is the heart of the workflow system. Workflow maps highlight the conditions of satisfaction of both internal and external customers.);
- identifying functionality of the activities (Flores et al.: col.2, lines 1-30, Flores et al. teaches business process mapping that displays the relationships among workflows, which workflows are primary and which workflows are secondary to the business process.);
- identifying system requirements used to implement the collaborative business (White: Para 5, 9, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The ability to define meta data relationships with

Art Unit: 3623

the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners.);

- identifying quantitative and qualitative business benefits based on a collaboration between participants (Flores et al.: Col. 2, lines 1-30, Flores et al. teach workflow maps highlight cycle times for the process and the conditions of satisfaction of both internal and external customers. The examiner interprets cycle time as a quantitative benefit and conditions of satisfaction as qualitative.);
- identifying an industry and corresponding solution maps relating to the collaborative business (Flores et al.: Abstract, Flores et al. teach the method and system of creating workflow maps of business processes provides consultants, business process analysts, and application developers with a unified tool with which to conduct business process analysis, design, and documentation. The examiner interprets consultants to be associated with various industries such as service and manufacturing industries.); and
- creating, in a data processing system, a collaboration for sharing a portion of the information accepted (PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain. Flores et al.: col. 3, lines 1-23, and col. 4, lines 22-52, Flores et al. teach the workflow server is the heart of the workflow system. The system is used to shorten the cycle time of producing workflow-enabled applications that allow users and managers to participate in and manage business processes.).
- **[Claim 25]** the participants include consumers, enterprises, or electronic marketplaces (PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain. The Examiner interprets the participants are associated with an Enterprise.).
- **[Claim 58]** providing on a display device coupled to a data processing system, a first view showing the participants, interactions between the participants, and defining the participants for the interactions (White: Para 5, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The

- knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner notes that Para 22 shows a display with polygons that are connected to each other via a line in a tree structure to indicate a relationship. Flores et al.: col. 1, line 64 to col. 2, line 30, col. 5, lines 55-62, and col. 7, lines 10-30, Flores et al. teach a business process map is a graphical representation of a business process, which shows its workflows and their relationships. Business process maps display the relevant information about each workflow-the customer, the performer, the conditions of satisfaction and the cycle time. Workflow maps highlight the role of process participants, which workflows are primary and which workflows are secondary to the business process; what work is performed in serial; what work is performed in parallel. A graphical user interface in a computer system is utilized. Typically, a workflow map, as it appears on a monitor in a size suitable for comfortable viewing, is larger than the screen. For this reason, horizontal and vertical scroll bars allow the user to scroll through the entire map.);
- providing on the display device, using the data processing system, a second view showing a sequence of the interactions (White: Para 31 and 32, White teaches the Browse interface enables users to navigate the Business Information Directory (BID) by drilling down through collections by subject area and topic. The Kview interface displays information in the BID. This interface offers the advantages of faster navigation, information in context, and the ability to display more information on the user's screen. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. Flores et al.: col.2, lines 1-30, Flores et al. teaches business process mapping that displays the relationships among workflows, which workflows are primary and which workflows are secondary to the business process.); and
 - providing on the display device, using the data processing system, a third view showing a system topology used by each participant (White: Para 9, White teaches the ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The Examiner interprets White to suggest information flow is understood down to the system level.);

Art Unit: 3623

- wherein the first, second, and third views assist collaboration between the participants in the business community (White: Para 2 and 5, White teaches collaborative processing and collaborative processing systems where decisions, actions, and associated analysis and reports are recorded in word processing documents, spreadsheets, and e-mail messages and stored in a collaborative processing system managed by office and/or groupware products. PR Newswire: Para 1, PR Newswire teaches the Web-centric applications are the first to allow business managers and executives to see and collaborate across the total supply chain.).
- **[Claim 59]** providing a first view comprises providing a first graphical view showing business benefits and value potential in addition to the participants, interactions between the participants, and defining the participants for the interactions (PR Newswire: Para 3, PR Newswire teaches VIT's application can span multiple applications and enterprises, allowing business managers to view the performance of the entire supply chain from supplier to customer. White: Para 4, White teaches executives can be notified quickly about information that requires urgent action, while business analysts can drill down through multiple levels of information when doing detailed analysis tasks like financial analysis, fraud detection, or supply chain optimization. Flores et al.: col. 2, lines 9-12, Flores et al. teach workflow maps highlight the conditions of satisfaction of both internal and external customers.).
- **[Claim 60]** providing a second view comprises providing a second graphical view showing roles of the participants and details of the interactions in addition to the sequence of the interactions (Flores et al.: col. 2, lines 1-31, Flores et al. teach business process maps display the relationship among workflows. Workflow maps highlight the roles of process participants.).
- **[Claim 61]** providing a third view comprises providing a third graphical view showing availability of IT components (White: Para 5, 9, 22, 24 and 32, White teaches components of an enterprise information portal to include a Web browser, Web server, Decision processing systems, Collaborative processing systems, and other corporate systems. The knowledge view (Kview) interface of SeeChain Portal is employed to locate and display information. The hyperbolic tree is organized by subject area, topic, and collection. The ability to define meta data relationships with the BID, and the meta data interchange hub, enables an organization to document and track the complete flow of information from transactional processing systems to decision and collaborative processing systems. The flexible architecture of the VIT SeeChain Portal enables it to be used for a wide variety of applications, ranging from the enterprise-wide monitoring of business processes to the exchange of information between trading partners. The Examiner interprets White to suggest the monitoring of business processes

includes the monitoring of the availability of components to execute the business process.).

Claims 34-36, 48-50, 56-57 and 62-65 substantially recite the same limitations as that of claims 14-16, 22-23 and 58-61 with the distinction of the recited method being a system, computer readable medium and another method. Hence the same rejection for claims 14-16, 22-23 and 58-61 as applied above applies to claims 34-36, 48-50, 56-57 and 62-65.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 3623

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael C. Heck whose telephone number is (571) 272-6730. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 273-6729.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

Or faxed to:


(703) 872-9306

[Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "**Box AF**"]

(571) 273-6730

[Informal/Draft communication, labeled "**PROPOSED**" or "**DRAFT**"]

mch
12 May 2005


TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600